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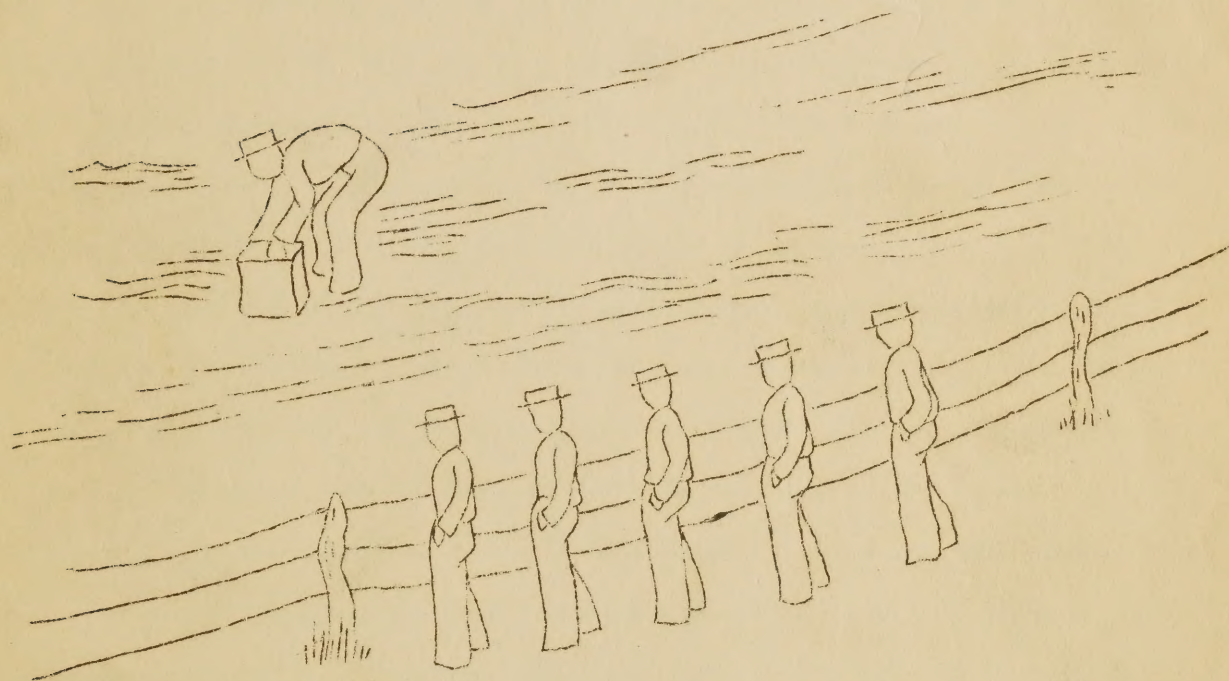
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Bureau of Agricultural Economics
and
Farm Security Administration

no. 1

Employment, Wages and Earnings of Agricultural Workers Living in
Farm Security Administration Migratory Labor Camps in
California and Arizona
January, 1940



(This is the first of a series of reports to be issued monthly, or more frequently, on the employment situation of agricultural workers living in F.S.A. migratory labor camps. The data for these reports are supplied from a ten per cent sample of all families in camps--a new sample being selected every week. All members of each household who are working or seeking work are reported upon with regard to their employment activities during the week in which the family is included in the sample).

February 5, 1940

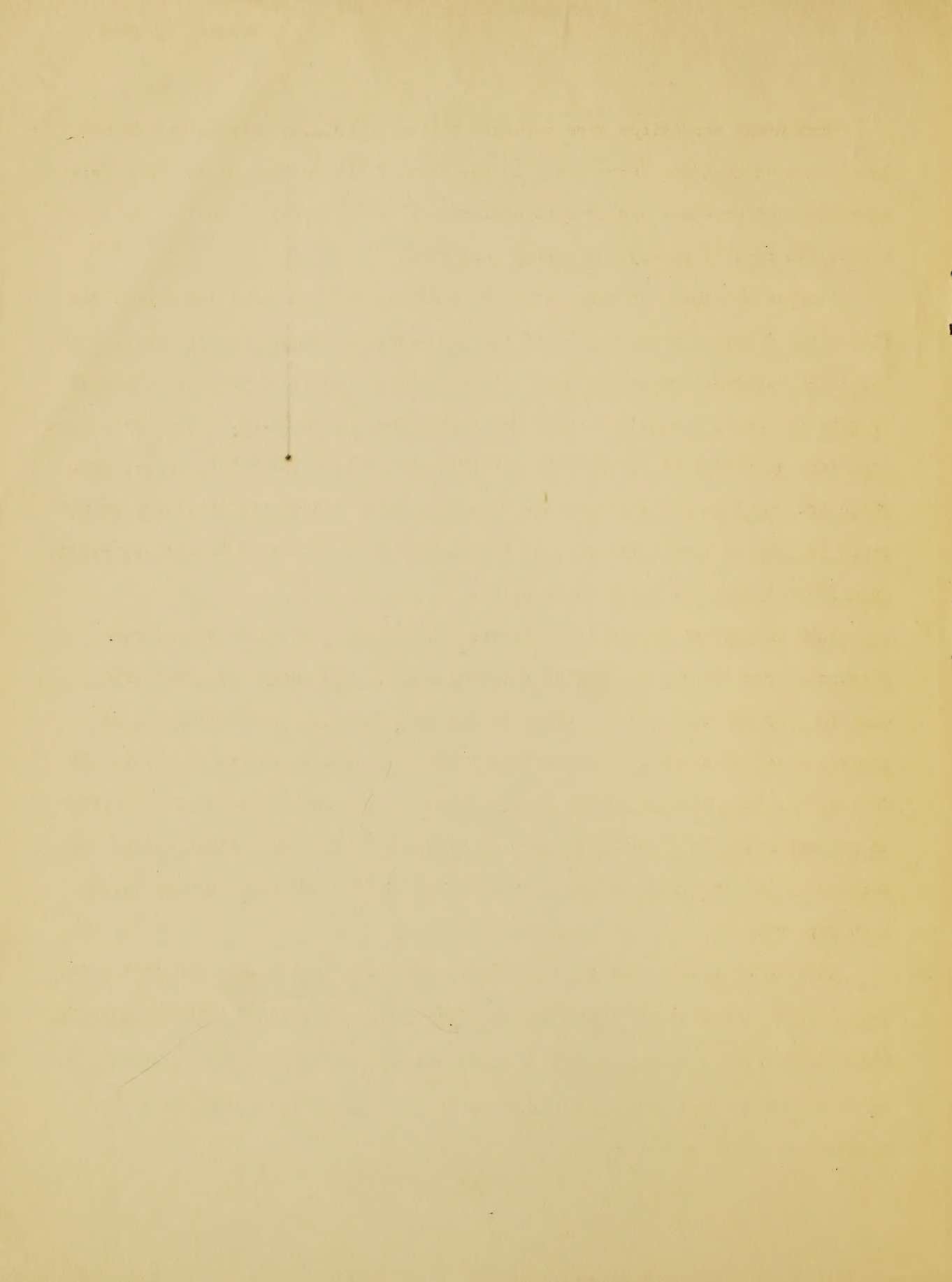
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Employment and Earnings of Farm Workers Residing in Farm Security
Administration Migratory Labor Camps in California and Arizona
January, 1940

Farm workers residing in the Farm Security Administration migratory labor camps in California and Arizona received very little employment during January of this year. The employment situation was unfavorable at the beginning of the year for all agricultural workers, as indicated by the estimates of the Agricultural Marketing Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Demand for farm laborers on January 1, according to these estimates, was 16 per cent below normal in California and 12 per cent below normal in Arizona. Supply of farm laborers, on the other hand, was slightly above normal in both states--with the result that there were approximately 12 workers for every 10 jobs. This unfavorable employment situation was further depressed by heavy rainfall throughout many sections of California which prevented much activity in the fields.

Reports from the migratory labor camps indicate that during each of the four weeks ending January 27th, only one-sixth to one-fifth of the workers were able to find employment. This means that for every worker able to find work, there were four or five unemployed but available for and seeking work. The index of employment for workers of the migratory labor camps stood at less than 10 during three weeks of the month and averaged 6.6 for all four weeks. (See table 1 and figure 1) This employment index is designed to measure the combined effect of unemployment and underemployment and does not rise to 100 until all workers are fully employed.



Employment conditions were somewhat better in Arizona than in California. During the week ending January 27, 45 per cent of the workers at the Agua Fria camp received one-half day or more employment. Those working received an average of 3.6 days of employment during that week.

Average earnings per week for those families with at least one person employed for $\frac{1}{2}$ day or more were \$5.68 for all weeks in January in all camps. When the total earnings are spread over all families in the camps--whether employed or not--the average weekly earning per family reduces to \$1.33. These low earnings were supplemented slightly by earnings from W.F.A. and W.V.A. employment, which are not included in the above figures. Total income available for expenditure is greater than earnings also by the amount of public assistance received from federal and state welfare agencies.

Such employment as was found during January was located at considerable distances from the camps. During the four weeks, the average distance from camp to jobs was 11.4 miles. (This is one way, the daily round trip is, of course, twice as great). Some workers traveled as far as 25 and 30 miles. At Calipatria, four members of one family traveled to a job 18 miles away in order to get one half day's work picking peas at which they earned 35-40¢ each. Two workers at Shafter traveled to a pea picking job 32 miles away to earn \$1.25 each per day.

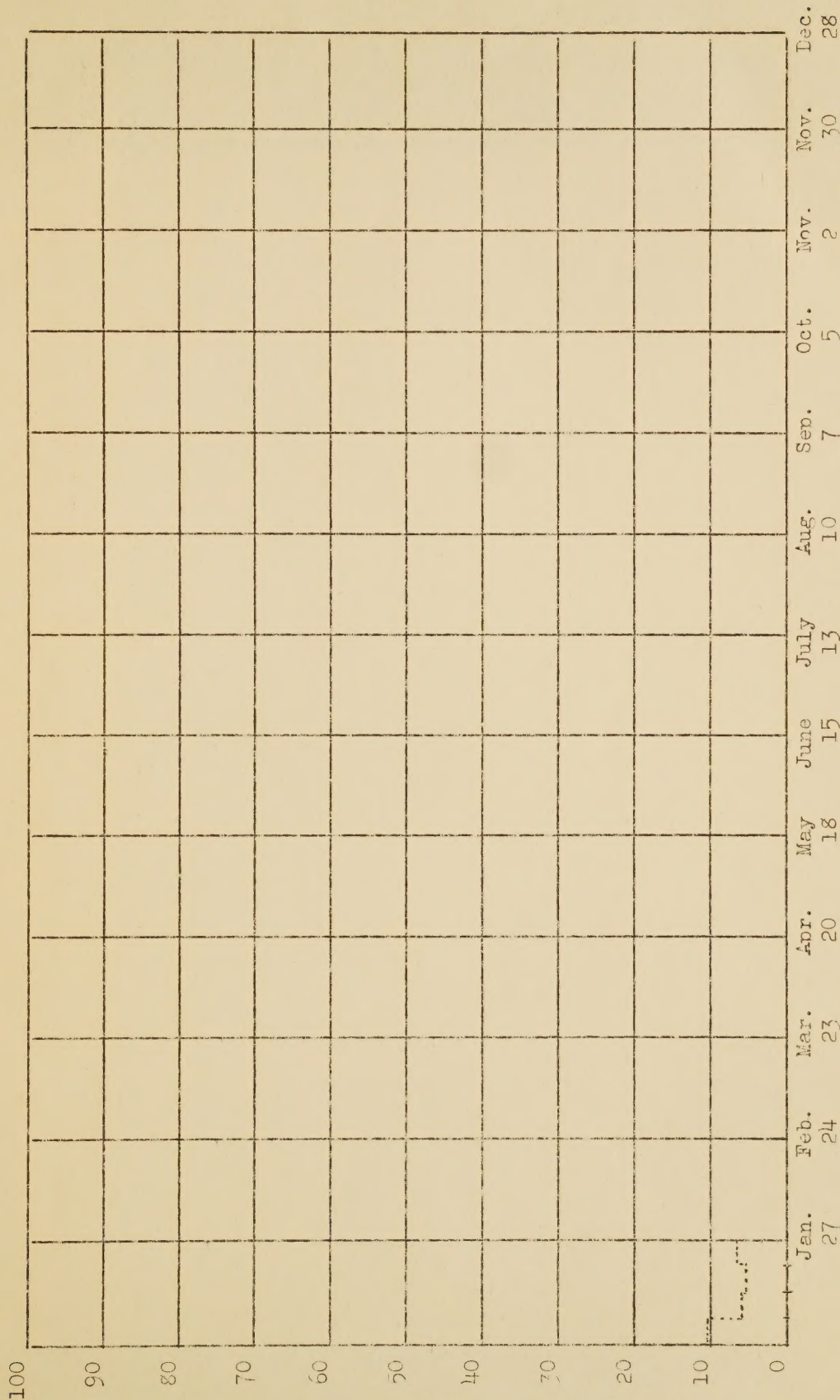
At a later point, when more statistics have been collected, the work radius of each camp will be computed. The radius will be greater than the average distance to jobs.

SUMMARY OF WEEKLY EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS
Agricultural Workers Living in FSA Migratory
Labor Camps in California and Arizona
January, 1940

	Week ending Jan. 6	Week ending Jan. 13	Week ending Jan. 20	Week ending Jan. 27	Four-week Average
1. Percentage of workers receiving 1/2 day or more of employment	21%	19%	15%	16%	17%
2. Percentage of families with at least one worker employed 1/2 day or more	25%	28%	20%	23%	23%
3. Average workers per family (employed and unemployed but available for work)	1.83	2.26	2.19	2.04	2.12
4. Average days employment per employed worker	2.82	2.78	2.26	2.65	2.40
5. Employment index*	10.1	6.4	5.5	6.9	6.6
6. <u>Average Earnings per Family:</u> (a) Families with at least one worker employed for 1/2 day or more	\$8.56	\$4.78	\$7.02	\$4.41	\$5.68
(b) All families	\$2.11	\$1.34	\$1.42	\$1.01	\$1.33
7. Average distance (in miles) from camp to job	13.8	11.6	12.1	9.8	11.4
(Number of camps included in above figures)	3	9	10	12	-

* Man-days employment received ÷ Man-days available for employment (allowing for a six-day week). If all workers were fully employed, the index number would be 100.

WEEKLY EMPLOYMENT INDEX* FOR CALIFORNIA
Farm Workers Living in Farm Security Administration Migratory Labor Camps.
1940



*The employment index is determined as follows: Aggregate man-days employment for the week is divided by the aggregate man-days available for employment (employed plus unemployed), allowing for a six-day week.

Camp		Week ending Jan. 6th	Week ending Jan. 13th	Week ending Jan. 20th	Week ending Jan. 27th
AGUA FRIA	<u>Employed $\frac{1}{2}$ day or more:</u>				
	Per cent of workers				45% : Cotton picking and
	Per cent of families				82% : pulling cotton bolls
	<u>Average Earnings:</u>				: were principal jobs.
	Employed families				: Many miscellaneous
MOBILE #1 (Caliratria)	All families				: small jobs. Wage
	<u>Average miles from</u>				: rates for cotton
	<u>camp to job:</u>				: picking 75¢-85¢ cwt.
					8.0 : Pulling bolls, 50¢ cwt
MOBILE #2	<u>Employed $\frac{1}{2}$ day or more:</u>				
	Per cent of workers				
	Per cent of families				
	<u>Average Earnings:</u>				
	Employed families				
MOBILE #3 (Holtville)	All families				
	<u>Average miles from</u>				
	<u>camp to job:</u>				

WEEKLY CAMP EMPLOYMENT REPORT
January, 1940

Camp	Week ending Jan. 6th	Week ending Jan. 13th	Week ending Jan. 20th	Week ending Jan. 27th
ARVIN	<u>Employed $\frac{1}{2}$ day or more:</u>			
	Per cent of workers		: Pulling cotton bolls	
	Per cent of families		8% : was only employment	
	<u>Average Earnings:</u>		14% : reported.	
	<u>Employed families</u>		Wage rate: \$1.25 cwt.	
BRAWLEY	All families		\$1.68 :	
	<u>Average miles from camp to job:</u>		\$.23 :	
			6.5 :	
	<u>Employed $\frac{1}{2}$ day or more:</u>			
	Per cent of workers			
GRIDLEY	Per cent of families			
	<u>Average Earnings:</u>			
	<u>Employed families</u>			
	All families			
	<u>Average miles from camp to job:</u>			
BRAWLEY				
GRIDLEY				

Camp	Week ending Jan. 6th	Week ending Jan. 13th	Week ending Jan. 20th	Week ending Jan. 27th
INDIO	Employed $\frac{1}{2}$ day or more: Per cent of workers Per cent of families Average Earnings: Employed families All families Average miles from camp to job:	: Principal jobs were 17%: picking grapefruit, 33%: dates and carrots. : Some general farm \$10.58 : work and highway \$ 3.53 : construction. Wage : rates: grapefruit 9.4 : \$1 ton, date pick- : ing \$2 day.	: Principal jobs were 13%: picking peas, beans, 18%: carrots and spinach. : Wage rates: 1¢ per \$2.79 : lb. for peas and \$.51 : beans, 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ per box : for tying carrots, 10.4 : 28¢ per crate for : spinach.	: Housemoving and 13%: irrigating. 18%: \$13.50: \$ 2.38: : 15.2 :
MARYSVILLE	Employed $\frac{1}{2}$ day or more: Per cent of workers Per cent of families Average Earnings: Employed families All families Average miles from camp to job:	: Miscellaneous jobs 7% : including picking 20% : turkeys and : carpentry. \$16.40 : \$ 3.28 : : 1.5 :	: Principally con- 7% : struction work at 20% : 62 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ per hour. : \$19.65 : \$ 3.93 : : 25.0 :	: Miscellaneous 4% : small jobs. 10% : \$1.44 : \$.14 : : 1.0 :
SHAFER	Employed $\frac{1}{2}$ day or more: Per cent of workers Per cent of families Average Earnings: Employed families All families Average miles from camp to job:	: Pulling cotton bolls 27% : picking cotton, and 50% : pruning were the : principal types of \$2.80 : work. Also slight \$1.40 : amount of nea : picking. 10.3 :	: Pulling cotton 10% : bolls. 17% : : \$1.33 : \$7.65 : : 4.8 :	: Pulling cotton 13% : bolls. 26% : : \$2.53 : \$.66 : : 7.9 :
THORNTON	Employed $\frac{1}{2}$ day or more: Per cent of workers Per cent of families Average Earnings: Employed families All families Average miles from camp to job:	: Trimming celery was 8% : only employment 14% : reported. Wage rate : for this was 25¢ per \$.94 : hour. \$.13 : : 5.0 :	: Celery cutting 10% : and wood cutting. 20% : : \$3.38 : \$.68 : : 5.5 :	: Reports no : employment. - : - : - : - : - :

